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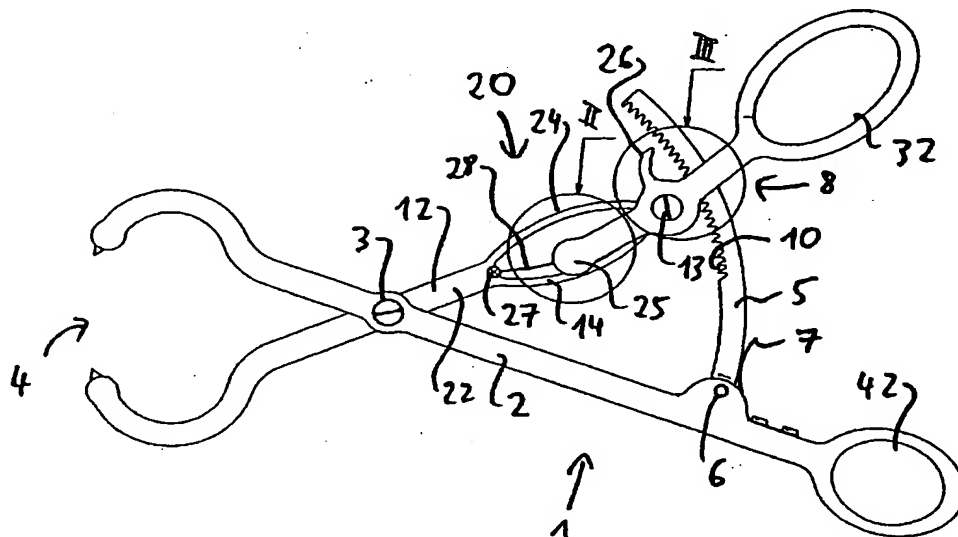
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(54) Title: ORTHOPAEDIC RATCHETING FORCEPS



(57) Abstract: An orthopaedic ratcheting forceps, especially for fixation of fractures, comprises two handles (2, 12), wherein a first catching element (5) is mounted pivotally with one handle (2 or 12) and wherein a complementary catching element (25) is mounted on the other handle (12 or 2). The forceps can assume only two stable settings which can be switched with a single hand, one closed setting within which the jaws (4) of the forceps can only be further closed and an open setting within which the handles (2, 12) of the forceps are freely movable, so that the forceps can be opened as well as closed. In one handle (12) a leaf spring (28) is provided and biased between two mounting points (27; 13) which spring (28) is mounted between abutting side walls (14, 24) within said handle (12). Furthermore a lever end (25) connected with one of the catching elements (26) engages the spring (28) and through movement of the activation element (32) the lever end (25) and/or the spring (28) is switchable between the closed setting and the open setting.

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